18a

423 tary constructions. A family owning one horse must
656 transport 30 cords of timber to fixed stations. The owner of two horses must double the quota, in winter.

[311] In 1947, about 40% of arable land of Lithuania was unplanted, and the diet of the rural population suffered a catastrophic decline. Few tractors are available. Threshing machines were nationalized. Bribes are required to gain any assistance from the Russian managers of the MTS stations—and people prefer not to deal with the drunken and greedy representatives of the "master race." Forests are systematically destroyed and forest fires are not combatted. The MVD-MGB troops quite frequently set fire to the forests in order to "smoke out" guerrillas.

There was even less incentive to work for Russia in 1948. At least one half of the arable land went untilled. . . .

Industry

433 Peat production dropped to one-third of the level
377 of the German occupation period. Very little coal is brought to the country. For these reasons, there is a severe shortage of electric power. City dwellers must provide their own heating—for apartments, institutions and schools.

The official press occasionally reports that certain officials "abuse their office" by driving to some village, demolishing "deserted homes" and forcing the neighboring farmers to transport the lumber to the city as fuel. . . . Due to the prevalent bureaucracy and chaos, government buildings and student dormitories go unheated for weeks. Therefore, dormitory inhabitants or the office force of this or that institution mobilize and follow the example of the dignitaries: they descend on and transport deserted homes (in parts) in a "socialistic competition" to keep themselves warm. . . .

433 Brick production dropped for lack of skilled man-
[339] power. The brick works of Rokai and Palemõnas produce for the army exclusively. No bricks and no tiles are available for sale to private citizens. Therefore, bricks and tiles figure in a lively black market exchange for horses.

Not a single cement plant is in operation—except on paper, in the boastful reports of "achievements" of the Russian dignitaries. The cement plants of Akmenė and Skirsnemunė are still in the stage of paper planning, though included in the five-year plan to be consummatted by 1950.

[288] The textile plants of Klaipėda are idle. The Drobė plant of Kaunas is under reconstruction. The Litex and Audiniai plants began operating. The Linas plant produces for export to Russia exclusively.

The hide tanning plants of Šiauliai and the glass factories of Radviliškis and Aleksotas are operating. Dairies were mostly reactivated. The huge Maistas stockyards and canneries were burned down in Kaunas, and feeble efforts at reconstruction are forging ahead. The Maistas plant in Panevėžys is operating but production is small. The plant at Tauragė still lies in ruins.

The beet sugar refineries of Marijampolė and Panevėžys resumed operations. The paper and cardboard plant produces inferior quality products. The railway yards and repair shops of Kaunas are being expanded. The factories, as a rule, produce for war and export to Russia. The present production level amounts to less than 50% of the 1939 level.

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THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES

Lithuania is situated on the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea between 53°35′ and 56°27′ north latitude and between 20°57.5′ and east longitude. The two other Baltic states, Latvia and Estonia, are farther north.

The surface of Lithuania is for the most part level, with none of her hills measuring more than 767 feet (234 meters) above sea level. In size, the nation has less than six percent of the territory of Europe, its area being 21,489 square miles. This figure, however, does not include all the territory of ethnographic Lithuania, which is about 33,937 square miles, divided as follows:

	SQ. MI.	SQ. KM.
Lithuania Major	20,389	52,820
Klaipeda (Memel) Territory	1,100	2,850
Lithuania up to March 22, 1939	21,489	55,670
Vilnius Region according to the Peace Treaty of July 12, 1920, with Russia	12,448	32,250
TOTAL	33,937	87,920

According to the Mutual Assistance Treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia, concluded October 10, 1939, part of the Vilnius region, about 2,569 square miles (6,656 square kilometers), was returned to Lithuania. However, all figures of economic activity used in this monograph refer to the territory of 21,489 square miles (55,670 square kilometers) that was under the sovereignty of Lithuania from January, 1923, to March 22, 1939.

Lithuania uses a larger percentage of its land for intensive agricultural purposes than its neighboring Baltic states. This may be seen from the comparative figures given in Table 4.

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TABLE 4

LAND USE IN THE BALTIC STATES

TYPE OF LAND	LITHUANIA Thousands of Acres	LITHUANIA Per-cent	LATVIA Thousands of Acres	LATVIA Per-cent	ESTONIA Thousands of Acres	ESTONIA Per-cent.
Arable land	6,667	48.5	5,243	32.2	2,671	23.9
Meadows and pasture land	2,817	20.5	4,094	25.2	4,305	38.5
Forests	2,599	18.9	4,317	26.6	2,315	20.7
All others	1,673	12.1	2,602	16.0	1,885	16.9
TOTAL	13,756 [a]	100.0	16,256 [b]	100.0	11,176 [c]	100.0

[a] 5,567,000 hectares.
[b] 6,579,000 hectares.
[c] 4,523,000 hectares.

To enable the reader to gain a better understanding and judgment of statistics about the Baltic states given elsewhere in this work, some comparative figures are given in Table 5 regarding the territory and population of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Lithuania is lacking in natural resources that are necessary to a well-rounded economic life. One of the country's most serious deficiencies is the absence of its own fuel supply. There is no coal in Lithuania. In 1923 Lithuania imported 5,367,100 litas worth of coal and liquid fuel. By 1928 this figure had almost tripled, imports that year amounting to 14,905,700 litas. The only form of domestic fuel is peat, of which there are 162,221 acres (65,650 hectares). The possibilities of peat have not yet been fully explored, but if peat were made to supplant coal, it is estimated that Lithuania would possess fuel reserves for 132 years.[20]

[20] A. K. Kubilius, *Lietuvos Ukio Perspektyvos* (The Prospects of the National Economy of Lithuania), Kaunas, 1930, p. 190.

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132 In general, the climate of Lithuania is not so favorable for the cultivating of grain crops as it is for the breeding of livestock. An effort has been made in recent years, under the guidance and encouragement of the country's leading economists, to concentrate on livestock breeding and to reduce grain crop culture. The winters in Lithuania are long, although not cold enough to affect winter crops, which are grown in substantial quantities. Heavy rainfall in the autumn aids in the germination of the winter crops. In 1935, 1,258,085 acres (509,140 hectares), or 18.98 percent of all arable land, were used for the growing of winter rye, while 8,723 acres (3,530 hectares) about 0.12 percent of the arable land, were used for spring rye. Because of the long winters and the concentration on grain culture, a great amount of man power is kept comparatively inactive for several months of the year.

[311]

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Though wheat is mankind's most popular cereal food, rye is the first choice in Lithuania. Only about 8 percent of all the arable land is utilized for wheat, while 19 percent of the land is devoted to the growing of rye. Another of the world's largest crops—corn (maize)—is not grown in Lithuania. The same is true of rice. The more popular grain crops, besides rye, are oats, barley, and wheat. Most favored of root crops in Lithuania are the potato and various species of root vegetables. The sugar beet, entirely unknown before the World War, is now quite popular and is grown in sufficient quantities to supply three sugar refineries. Of the fibers, flax is the only one that is widely grown. Hemp is also produced, but in small quantities and only for the consumption of farmers themselves, who use the fiber for ropes and the seeds for several kinds of food.

Another important branch of the agriculture of Lithuania is livestock breeding, which has been vastly improved and extended since the World War.

Economic reconstruction after the World War was not as general among agricultural countries as it might at first appear. Timoshenko points out several unfavorable factors.[5] First of all, the prices of agricultural commodities began to decline early in the period of prosperity. This affected the purchasing power of agricultural and raw-material producing countries. Another adverse factor was the reëstablishment of a system of agricultural protection in the industrial countries of Europe. Cereal production was given less tariff protection during the earlier post-war period than before the war. In some countries of central Europe, including Germany, tariff protection of grain products was completely discontinued during the first post-war years.

[5] Vladimir P. Timoshenko, *World Agriculture and Depression*, Michigan Business Studies, Vol. V, No. 5, University of Michigan, 1933, pp. 541–663.

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small part of this available for export. Almost half of all the arable land of Lithuania is used for grain culture, a fact that is evident from Table 12. Although the amount of arable land used for grain culture increases slowly, the exports of grain have varied widely. The heavy grain exports in 1935

TABLE 11

EXPORTS OF GRAIN 1924–39[a]

YEAR	GRAIN EXPORTED[b] (*Metric tons*)	VALUE (*1,000 litas*)
1924	24,966	10,022
1926	16,541	9,894
1928	12,310	6,377
1930	40,664	11,526
1932	7,035	2,268
1934	25,504	4,682
1935	162,023	20,465
1936	130,562	14,578
1937	5,795	1,628[c]
1938	132,379	21,696
1939	85,365	11,700

[a] In the statistics of grain exports are included not only rye, wheat, oats, and barley but also the seeds of vetch, peas, buckwheat, chick-peas, and lentils.

[b] The metric ton or 10 quintals = 36.743 U.S. bushels of wheat or potatoes, 39.369 U.S. bushels of rye or linseed, 45.931 U.S. bushels of barley, 68.894 U.S. bushels of oats, according to the League of Nations' *Statistical Year Book of 1940*.

[c] Kriksciunas, *op. cit.*, p. 104, for the period 1924–37.

and 1936, which according to Professor Kriksciunas [37] may be regarded as accidental, were made possible by an exceptionally large yield in 1934 and 1935. The bulk of production is intended for home consumption.

The most popular grain crops in Lithuania are winter

[37] Kriksciunas, *op. cit.*, p. 105.

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243 The most popular grain crops in Lithuania are winter
311 rye, winter wheat, oats, and barley; the respective importance of each is indicated by the proportion of the land used for various crops, as shown in Table 12.

TABLE 12

LAND USED FOR VARIOUS CROPS

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311
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CROPS	1909–13 [a] (1,000 acres)	1938 [b] (1,000 acres)	PERCENTAGE OF ALL ARABLE LAND
Rye (winter and spring)	1,365.0	1,304.8	19.2
Wheat (winter and spring)	202.0	500.5	7.4
Oats	783.8	877.4	13.0
Barley	452.7	536.3	8.1
Buckwheat	16.1	19.6	.3
TOTAL GRAIN	2,819.6 [c]	3,238.6 [d]	48.0
Legumes	140.8	192.7	2.8
Potatoes	294.3	459.7	6.8
Sugar beets, fodder beets, carrots, and turnips	(e)	160.0	2.4
Clover and other grass fodder	(e)	1,378.2	20.3
Flax	(e)	192.5	2.8
Vegetables	136.4	63.1	.9

[a] J. Kriksciunas, *Die litauische Landwirtschaft* (Lithuanian Agriculture), Kaunas, 1933, p. 133.
[b] C.S.B., 1938, pp. 114–17.
[c] 1,141,100 hectares.
[d] 1,310,640 hectares.
[e] Figures not available.

243 In general, there is a tendency to reduce rye cultivation. For instance, the total of 1,365,000 acres used for rye in the years 1909–13 is 7.2 percent greater than was used in the same territory in the post-World War period.

In Lithuania rye is used principally for a special dark

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YEAR	LITHUANIA	LATVIA	ESTONIA
SUGAR BEETS			
1928–29	—	20	—
1929–30	—	35	—
1930–31	—	69	—
1931–32	67	94	—
1932–33	164	245	—
1933–34	73	291	—
1934–35	137	539	—
1935–36	198	451	—
1936–37	245	382	—
1937–38	257	442	—
1938–39 [b]	208	296	—

[a] Conversion coefficients: see footnote b of Table 11.
[b] *Revue internationale d'agriculture*, 1940, No. 2.

FLAX

Lithuania is one of the chief flax-producing countries in Europe, for the climate and the soil are very favorable for the cultivation of this crop. It is to be noted that in spite of its small area Lithuania ranks as the third flax exporter of the world, being surpassed only by Soviet Russia and Poland. About 200,000 acres, or a little more than three percent of all the arable land in Lithuania, is used for flax growing. Although this is a comparatively small percentage, the income derived therefrom is high. The income from flax and linseed exports in 1920–36 was greater than that from butter, pigs and pork, eggs, or grain.[31]

Because there are no uniform standards for the preparation of the flax, the export products vary in quality. For example, in southern Lithuania flax is plucked out only after full maturity. Later it is submitted to a process of dew retting

[31] Kriksciunas, *op. cit.*, p. 103. See Table 19 for figures.

11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

this circumstance and remained inferior to that of the more progressive countries of Western Europe. Most of her peasant farmers, who were not released from serfdom until 1862-1865, were still living under the same conditions as in the Middle Ages. They owned narrow strips of land, practised the old three-year crop rotation, had common grazing land in a very neglected condition, bred only native stock and relied almost exclusively on cereal crops. Farming methods were thus very primitive and the farmer's income very small, while the houses were almost entirely of wood with thatched or wooden roofs.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, intellectuals, who were still few in number, began to take an interest in rural life : they cut up part of the communal land to form separate farms, organised more paying forms of activity, carried on active propaganda for the improvement of rural dwellings and encouraged the introduction of more rational methods of work. Their efforts met invariably with systematic opposition from the Russian Government.

During the world war, Lithuania was for many months the scene of hostilities. From 1915 to the end of 1918, the Germans occupied the country, which was the victim of requisitions of all kinds and lost much of its wealth.

The Proclamation of Lithuanian independence was followed by a strong movement of national renaissance and rural reconstruction. The Government's task was a difficult one. Tremendous efforts were made to build up a country which was just emerging from war ; farming methods were improved and land reform was instituted. Communal land was redistributed, undeveloped estates were broken up, new branches of agriculture were developed — dairying, pig-breeding, poultry-farming ; numerous schools of agriculture were founded, such roads as existed were rebuilt, and new means of communication were opened. In a word, the farmer's life was to be reorganised on modern lines. True, not all these ideals have proved capable of fulfilment in so short a time ; but great strides have been made, and present day agriculture in Lithuania differs profoundly from the pre-war conditions obtaining in that country.

* * *

Lithuania now consists in the main of small and medium-sized rural properties. A farm of 5 or 6 hectares provides an adequate livelihood for an average working farmer's family. An estate of 80 or 100 hectares is also regarded as a working peasant's farm, as it is generally run by the owner in person. Farms ranging from 5 to 100 hectares account for over 90 % of the agricultural land. Miniature farms up to 2 hectares represent only 0.44 % of the area under cultivation, which is all

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1399 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

to the good, as such farms generally contribute nothing towards agricultural production and are far from being a social asset. There are no latifundia in Lithuania. The largest estate comprises about 1,000 hectares, and the larger properties exceeding 100 hectares number only 1602, or 0.56% of the total farms.

The proportion of men and women in the rural population is about equal. The country people do not go to the towns in search of work, as urban and country dwellers carry on different trades and their lives are quite separate.

An old barn.

The soil is of average fertility. In the east and south-east, there is a small area which is sandy and not very fertile, while, in the north again, a small area consists of very fertile land. The vast plains of Lithuania are covered with clay — more or less light — deposited during the Ice Age and subjected to centuries of erosion and impoverishment.

The rainfall is fairly heavy, so that much of this low-lying land necessitates drainage works. The State makes itself responsible for the large-scale regularisation of rivers and watercourses and the cutting of drainage channels. The farmers are responsible, with the help of Government subsidies, for ditching and drain-laying on water-logged land. By no means all of the land is satisfactorily drained. The yield cannot

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

As regards *agricultural research*, the Institute of Agricultural Research (founded in 1927) is in charge of experimental work in the field of agriculture throughout the country, with the exception of the work conducted by the Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva. It has at present under its control seven experimental stations dealing with various matters relating to the cultivation of crops, an experimental fruit-growing station (in process of organisation), a crop improvement station (at Dotnuva), a crop protection station (at Dotnuva) and a station for research on the breeding of pigs for bacon. Proposals are under consideration for the foundation of an agricultural machinery testing station and of stations for research into cattle- and sheep-breeding respectively.

In consequence of these measures, and particularly the activities of the agricultural intelligence service, agriculturists have begun to introduce a more rational system of crop rotation, to prepare the soil more carefully and fertilise it more rationally (the progress of stock-breeding increases the quantities of manure available), to use better quality seed, to improve meadow- and pasture-land, to make more extensive use of agricultural machinery (through the foundation of co-operative societies for the joint use of machinery), etc. The results have been a decrease in the area of land left fallow and a corresponding increase in the area sown from an average of 2,079,000 hectares for the years 1928 to 1930 to 2,312,000 hectares for the period 1935 to 1937, the increase chiefly affecting the land under the more intensively cultivated crops (wheat, sugar-beet, mangel-wurzels). There has also been an increase in the yield per hectare of all the principal crops (wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas and potatoes), the yield from 1933 to 1937 being almost half as great again as during the years 1901 to 1910. It is worthy of note that, whilst the cultivation of sugar-beet was entirely unknown in the country before the war, the refineries now pay out almost 6½ million litai to the growers each year. The productivity of meadow- and pasture-land has increased to an even greater extent than that of arable land.

This latter circumstance has permitted the development of stock-breeding and the number of farm animals has risen considerably (in the case of cattle, for example, from 766,000 in 1913 to 1,172,000 in 1937). As a result of the organisation of milk control societies, breeding centres, the keeping of stud books, etc., the productivity of stock has also increased very considerably.

Progress has been particularly noteworthy in the case of cattle (which, in Lithuania, are mainly bred for the production of milk). In 1923, with a view to the transformation of surplus milk into exportable produce, chiefly butter, dairymen's co-operative societies were founded with the financial support